

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 170940Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TJXS: EAID, PFOR, QA, SU, XF
SUBJECT: SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT VISITS QATAR

1. SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER RASHID AL TAHIR
BAKR VISITED QATAR MAY 14-16. ACCORDING TO QATAR NEWS AGENCY,
MEMBERS
OF HIS DELEGATION INCLUDED: MINISTER OF LOCAL PEOPLES
GOVERNMENT, MAJOR MA'MOUN AWAD A BU ZAID',
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, AL SHARIF AL KHATIM; MINISTER OF
INTERIOR AND NATIONAL SECURITY, ABDUL WAHAB IBRAHIM; MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE, MOHAMED AL SHAZLY; MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH
AFFAIRS, ALI SHAMMU AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, GEN. IZ IDDEAN AL
MALKI.

2. AL TAHIR AND HIS DELEGATION RECEIVED FULL RED CARPET TREAT-
MENT. THEY MET WITH THE AMIR, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED
FORCES, MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, LABOR AND SOCIAL
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AFFAIRS, INTERIOR, FINANCE AND PETROLEUM AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE.
APPROPRIATE SOCIAL EVENTS WERE LAID ON AND FULL MEDIA COVERAGE
PROVIDED.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MAY 16 CONTAINED STANDARD RHETORIC
ON ARAB UNITY, MIDDLE EAST AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECON-
OMIC AFFAIRS. HIGHLIGHTED WAS AFFIRMATION OF NEED TO KEEP THE

RED SEA FREE FROM BIG POWER CONFLICT AND STATEMENT THAT THE SECURITY OF THE ARAB LITTORAL STATES WAS A "PAN-ARAB RESPONSIBILITY." ALSO
GOQ PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR SUDAN AGAINST ALL ATTEMPTS AIMED AT UNDERMINING ITS UNITY AND SECURITY.

4. COMMENT: SUDANESE PRESENCE HERE IS IMPORTANT WITH SUDANESE OCCUPYING MANY SENSITIVE POSITIONS IN THE ARMY, POLICE AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. UNDOUBTEDLY ONE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION WAS TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM GOQ, BUT THE COMMUNIQUE COMMENTS ON RED SEA SITUATION IN THE HORN AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA, A CONCERN INCREASINGLY SHARED BY GOQ WHICH SEES INCREASED SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS IN AFRICA AS FORERUNNER OF SOVIET DESIGNS ON GULF.

5. COMMENT CONT'D: DURING MAY 16 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF TAHIR VISIT AS BEING LONG ON CEREMONIALS, COURTESY CALLS AND TV POSTURING AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. SUHAYM ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN AS POTENTIAL BREAD BASKET FOR AREA WORTHY OF ARAB INVESTMENT, AND LEGITIMACY OF ITS CONCERN OVER SOVIET INCURSIONS IN HORN, ZAIRE, AND ANGOLA. HE ALSO HAD PRAISE FOR NUMAIRY, BUT REMARKED THAT SUDAN'S INTERNAL WEAKNESSES AND RACIAL DIVISIONS MADE IT A WOBBLY PLATFORM FOR AMBITIOUS FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY NUMAIRY. SUHAYM ADVISED THAT BEST GOS COULD DO WOULD BE TO STAY AT HOME AND PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER AND THIS WOULD BETTER CONTRIBUTE TO AREA STABILITY THAN BY ITS SENDING LARGE DELEGATIONS
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ON SUCH JUNKETS. (SOME OF SUHAYM'S ACERBITY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FACT THAT HE ASSIGNED NO ROLE IN TAHIR VISIT).
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